

Nature & You

News and Events from the Missouri Department of Conservation • September/October 2015



On Target

MDC provides archery training and shooting opportunities for everyone...

Becoming a champion competitive archer requires years of dedicated practice and finely honed skills. But shooting a bow and arrow for fun whether hunting or target shooting is a different matter. Sure, safe and accurate archery takes practice. But the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) offers training and shooting ranges that make the ancient art accessible to anyone.

"Archery literally is available for anybody," said Nathan Woodland, Parma Woods Range supervisor. "Our three-hour workshops have two hours of shooting time. In that time, most people are able

to shoot a respectable grouping at 10 yards."

Archery equipment is available that is adaptable to all ages. People who utilize wheelchairs can shoot bows. Specialized gear enables people with other physical challenges to shoot archery, too.

MDC offers a variety of ways for people to learn and enjoy archery.

Parma Woods, for example, is offering archery classes in September and October. All classes are free. Some are great introductions to archery, while others teach advanced skills to shooters with experience.

Parma Woods will offer a basic archery class 5:30 to 8 p.m.

on Thursday, Sept. 24, and from 3:30 to 6 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 4. This class will introduce participants to equipment, safety precautions and skills. The stance, draw, aim and arrow release techniques produce accuracy. Basics are fairly simple to learn, and with practice good technique produces accurate shooting.

Bowhunter Education Class is scheduled at Parma Woods 6 to 10 p.m. on Sept. 9 and 10. This class teaches safety and archery skills useful in bow hunting for deer, turkey or small game. The course will cover archery gear, shooting skills, conservation, hunting regulations

pertaining to archery, tree stand safety, shot placement, trailing game and field dressing game. Those who complete the course will be Bowhunter Education certified. The course gives people the necessary skills to be successful at bowhunting for game, but it also is a useful refresher course for veteran bowhunters.

Outdoor demonstrations and shooting time are usually part of the course. Parma Woods has a target archery range adjacent to the firearms range. There is a charge of \$3 per hour for archery range use for shooters over age 16.

Bowhunter Education is not required for hunting in Missouri under general regulations. However, certification is required for many special managed deer hunts or archery deer hunting that some cities allow in designated areas. Many states required Bowhunter Education certification to participate in their bowhunting opportunities.

Burr Oak Woods, Discovery Center and Lake City will also offer various types of archery programs during the coming year. Some instruction will be part of the site's activities at events such as summer camps or family outdoor skills sessions.

Once an archer learns how to shoot a bow and arrow, practice makes accurate. MDC provides unstaffed target ranges for free public shooting. These ranges provide a chance to shoot for fun and to tune up skills for hunting seasons.

A popular archery range is at the Platte Falls Conservation Area, about one mile east of Platte City off Route HH. That range has targets set at various distances.

James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area has a field archery range. This range is on the area's southeast corner. It can be reach

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Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center

1401 NW Park Road, Blue Springs, MO 64015 • mdc.mo.gov/node/280



Located in Blue Springs, Missouri, one mile north of I-70 and one mile west of MO 7 on Park Road. Six trails, 1,071 wooded acres, two picnic areas, indoor wildlife viewing area, 3,000 gallon native fish and turtle aquarium, hands-on nature exhibits, gift shop, and sales of fishing and hunting permits.

NATURE CENTER HOURS:

Tuesday–Friday: 7 AM–6 PM

Saturday: 8 AM–5 PM

AREA AND TRAILS:

Daily: 7 AM–6 PM

Daylight Saving Time: 7 AM–8 PM

Closed Thanksgiving Day,
Christmas and New Years

TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-228-3766 to sign up for a program requiring registration on or after the first business day of that month. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy.

Babes in the Woods: Creek Crawl'

September 8 • Tuesday • 10–11 AM

Registration required (babes under 36 months)

Let's take your little one to a creek! We will take a short hike to Burr Oak Creek to splash and experience this watery world.

Conservation Kids Club: Let's Go Creekin'

September 8 • Tuesday • 6:30–8 PM

Registration required (ages 7–13)

Exploring a creek is a wonderful way to discover nature. Join us for a wet and wild adventure in search of the wildlife that call Burr Oak Creek home.

Little Acorns: Off to the Races

September 9 • Wednesday • 10–11 AM or 1–2 PM

September 10 • Thursday • 10–11 AM

September 12 • Saturday • 10–11 AM

Registration required (ages 3–5)

On your mark, get set, GO! We are off to the rollie pollie races! Learn how these amazing insects can get their move on.

Home School: Insect-O-Maniacs!

September 9 • Wednesday • 10–11:30 AM

or ages 6–8, 9–11, 12–18 or 1–2:30 PM

for ages 6–8 or 9–11

Registration required

Buzz on over to check out some awesome insects. Get up close to see how big these six-legged critters can grow and learn how they are a very important part of the food web!

Birding the Habitat Trail

September 12 • Saturday • 7–8 AM

No registration required (all ages)

Meet at the Habitat Trail parking lot for an 'I Spy' bird watching adventure.

Discover Nature – Fishing Family Fishing

September 12 • Saturday • 9–11:30 AM

Registration required (families)

Early fall is a great time to take your family fishing. We will teach some fishing basics; provide equipment and worms and then let you and your families try your luck. If you are lucky, you might even be drawn for a new fishing pole and tackle box. Family Fishing will cover lessons 1 and 2 from Discover Nature – Fishing.

Pawpaws, Persimmons and Plums!

September 19 • Saturday • 1–3 PM

Registration required (adults)

Take a hike with us and learn to identify these trees and just how to prepare delicious recipes from native fall fruits.

Monarch Tagging

September 19 • Saturday • 1–2 PM or 2–3 PM

Registration required (all ages)



Monarch butterflies are now migrating to their winter home in central Mexico, and we are ready to tag them! Become a scientist for a day by capturing, tagging and releasing monarchs and identify other unique butterflies.

The Athlete of the Bird World

September 19 • Saturday • 8:30–11:30 AM

Walk-in (all ages)

Come see a live male ruby-throated hummingbird up close! It wasn't able to be released after its injury, and it is here to help everyone learn more about the only hummingbird that breeds in Missouri. Find out how to identify male and female hummingbirds, and learn about special adaptations that makes them the athlete of the bird world.

Rockin' & Readin' Nature Tales

September 26 • Saturday • 11 AM–Noon

October 31 • Saturday • 11 AM–Noon

Walk-in (ages 2+)

Join us for story hour as we lead you on fantastic nature adventures! We will meet butterflies, birds, mammals and all sorts of magnificent creatures! We will cross rivers, discover mysteries within the forest and fly across the prairies.

Homemade Bows and Arrows

September 26 • Saturday • Noon–2:30 PM

Registration required

(families with children ages 7+)

Archery is a great way to get your kids outside and enjoy nature! Discover this fun sport and hone your marksmanship skills by crafting a bow and arrows from seasoned saplings.

What's for Dinner?

Wednesdays & Saturdays • 3 PM

Walk-in (all ages)

Discover what's for dinner at Burr Oak Woods as the captive amphibians, fish and turtles enjoy their feast every Wednesday and Saturday. The snakes will be fed every other Friday (Sept. 4 & 18 and Oct. 2, 16 & 30).

Spectacular Spiders

September 5 • Saturday • 1–2:30 PM

No registration required (all ages)

There are more than 300 fascinating species of spiders in Missouri! They can be camouflaged, furry or even brightly colored. Join us as we creep into the eight-legged world of spiders. We will learn about them inside then head out on a trail to see who is hanging around.

NOTICE: Burr Oak Woods Conservation Area will be closed for a Youth Managed Deer Hunt Oct. 31 and Nov. 1. The Nature Center will remain open on Saturday, October 31, but the trails, roads, parking lots and all off trail areas will be closed.



SPECIAL EVENT!

Once Upon a Time

October 3 · Saturday · 1–4 PM or 6–8 PM
Walk-in (all ages)

By and by we see a rabbit appear on the trail in front of us. Curiosity prevails. Should we follow him?

There appears to be a giant storybook on the trail in front of us. Where did that come from? And what is on the other side? We invite you and your family and friends to experience the enchanted forest as we step into the storybook to

discover Elsa and Princess Anna, Rapunzel, Rumpelstiltskin, Robin Hood, Snow White and many more on the other side! It doesn't take characters along a trail or adventures within a video game to find magic! The true gift of magic in nature comes from allowing ourselves time to explore, to dream and to use our imagination! Your family will not want to miss this very delightful evening!

Step into a storybook forest at Burr Oak Woods Saturday, October 3.

Little Acorns: Let It Fly

October 14 · Wednesday · 10–11 AM or 1–2 PM

October 15 · Thursday · 10–11 AM

October 24 · Saturday · 10–11 AM

Registration required (ages 3–5)

We are breaking out the big fans for this hands-on nature exploration as we answer the question: What flies and what flops?

Home School: Primitive Skills

October 14 · Wednesday · 10–11:30 AM

for ages 6–8, 9–11, 12–18 or 1–2:30 PM

for ages 6–8 or 9–11 *Registration required*

Can you “hack it”? Experience the feeling of roughing it in the woods and practice learning some ancient primitive skills. Skills include making shelters, building fires, finding water, tracking and more.

Introduction to Deer Hunting

October 17 · Saturday · 10 AM–3 PM

Registration required (ages 11+, youngsters must be accompanied by an attending adult)

Have you thought about hunting, but just don't know where to start? Deer hunting is a challenging, yet exciting tradition here in Missouri. We will cover everything from scouting locations to hunting methods, processing your own deer and more.

Soup and Fable

October 22 · Thursday · 6–8 PM

Registration required (adults)

The autumn leaves and the boundless stars will be our only canopy. Don't miss out on this unforgettable experience as we savor the bounty of a wild autumn harvest, sip warm and wild native teas and then sit back to listen to the wild tales from special guest Jo Ho, an accomplished storyteller, actress and drama instructor, around the campfire.

Fall Bird Hiking

October 24 · Saturday · 7–8 AM

No registration required (all ages)

As we near the end of the fall migration, join us on the Bethany Falls Trail for our last bird hike of the year. Meet at the Bethany Falls parking lot.

A Bird in the Hand

October 24 · Saturday · 10 AM–1 PM

Walk-in (all ages)

Come view our native birds in the hand! Join Missouri River Bird Observatory bird-banders

as they capture, band and measure a variety of species at Burr Oak Woods backyard feeders. A special treat for kids and adults alike, visitors



will be able to see many birds such as downy woodpeckers, tufted titmice, northern cardinals and black-capped chickadees up close.

Creepy Critters

October 31 · Saturday · 1–2 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Missouri is home to many amazing wild animals, including some that might seem kind of ‘creepy’. They might be scaly, have lots of legs or have large fangs or teeth. Join us as we crawl into the world of Missouri's creepiest residents and find out how they are all important to nature and can be really cool too!

Women's Intermediate Backpacking

Registration required (Women, girls ages 14–17 are welcomed when accompanied by a participating adult women)

Orientation

October 10 · Saturday · 12:30–3:30 PM

This is a prerequisite program to attend our Women's Intermediate Backpacking Trip on Oct. 17–18, 2015. Participants must attend and complete a test hike which includes a one-hour backpack hike up and down small hills on a natural trail. We have a limited amount



of gear to share and we'll help you decide what to bring and what to expect.

Backpacking Trip

October 17–18 · Saturday–Sunday · 8 AM–5 PM

Embark on an amazing journey to a land of dolomite glades, rock bridges, karst and sinkholes...

also known as the Missouri Ozarks. We will hike a seven mile backpack loop that is rated as moderate in difficulty. This trip involves carrying a 30 lb. backpack up and down hills in rocky terrain. Participants must attend and complete the test hike and orientation on Oct. 10.

Babes in the Woods: Backdoor to Bethany Falls Trail

October 13 · Tuesday · 10–11 AM

Registration required (babes under 36 months)

Don't miss out on the fun! Hike out with your little one to one of the most popular trails in the Kansas City area. And don't forget your camera!

Conservation Kids Club: Spider Sniffing

October 13 · Tuesday · 6:30–8 PM

Registration required (ages 7–13)

Do you think spiders are creepy? Well, October IS the creepiest month of the year! It is a perfect time to study the spectacular spiders that live in Missouri. Let's venture down the trail after dark in search of these amazing arachnids.

Lake City Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

28505 E. Truman Road, Landahl Park, Buckner, MO 64016 • mdc.mo.gov/node/282



Located on 60 acres of forests and fields near Blue Springs, Missouri, six miles north of I-70 on MO 7 and two miles east of MO 7 on Truman Road in Landahl Park. Facilities include an outdoor education center, archery, pistol, rifle and shotgun ranges, including skeet and trap.

HOURS:

May 1–September 15

Wednesday–Sunday: Noon–6 PM

September 16–April 30

Wednesday–Sunday: Noon–4:30 PM

Closed Monday and Tuesday
and all state holidays.

FACILITIES AND FEES: Available for individual or group use. Call for information and possible restrictions.

- Rifle/pistol range: \$3 booth per hour
- Trap/Skeet: \$3 per round
- Archery range: \$3 per person per hour

TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-249-3194 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy.

Cable Restraint

September 8 · Tuesday · 5:30–9 PM

October 20 · Tuesday · 6–9 PM

Registration required (all ages)

If you are a trapper looking for another tool to help you on the trapping line, then you might want to explore cable restraint. The course of instructions includes general history of cable restraint, rules and regulations, length of season and more. This class is a requirement to trap with the cable restraint technique and certification will appear on your Resident Trapping Permit. This class will fill quickly.

Teens & Firearms: Fun Shoot

September 10 · Thursday · 6–8:30 PM

Registration required (ages 13–17)

This will be the last Teens & Firearms event for the summer. Bring the kids out to show off the skills they have learned from the staff at Lake City. Events will include rifle, pistol, shotguns and archery! Come and challenge your skills with others as you show off what you learned during your 2015 summer break.

Basic Shotgun

September 16 · Wednesday · 6–8 PM

Registration required (ages 12 +)

Introduction to shotgun shooting must begin with knowledge of the equipment. Knowing your shotgun is the first step to knowing how to shoot. This course is to help give the student a basic understanding of types of shotguns, actions, shotshells and follow through. Range time is included in the class.

National Hunting and Fishing Day

September 26 · Saturday · Noon–4:30 PM

Walk-in (all ages)

FREE SHOOTING! The Lake City Range is happy to open our doors to the public with a FREE day of shooting in celebration of National Hunting and Fishing Day! Everyone is welcome! Come hone your skills on the trap, skeet or archery fields, or on the rifle or pistol ranges. We'll see you on the range!

Effective Wing Shooting

October 2 · Friday · 6–9:30 PM

October 3 · Saturday · 8–11:30 AM

Registration required (ages 12 +)

Like to improve your wing shooting skills using non-toxic shot? Join us in learning the proper way to select the best ammunition and choke combination for different migratory and upland game bird hunting.



We will discuss the latest technology on non-toxic shotgun ammunition, how to judge distances and properly patterning your shotgun.

Women's Firearm Safety – Phase II

October 10 · Saturday · 8–11:30 AM

Registration required (women ages 18 +)

Prerequisite Phase I: Let's learn more about handguns. This course was designed for women who are interested in gaining more information about firearms. Topics discussed include storage of firearms, different types of handguns and calibers. Build your marksmanship skills with more range time and how to clean your firearm.

Women on the Range: An Unmatched Experience

October 17 · Saturday · 8–4 PM

Registration required (women ages 18+)

This program is a safe and fun way for women to enjoy a day of shooting in a friendly, safe environment. This event will cover everything from rifles and pistols to shotguns and archery. It is a great way to introduce you and others to the sport of shooting and to the different shooting disciplines offered. The one-on-one coaching offered by Lake City staff will give you the support needed to obtain the skills of a basic shooter.

Family Trap Shooting

October 18 · Sunday · 9–11:30 AM

Registration required (ages 12 +)

Trap shooting is a fun shooting sport to experience. The course will cover basic firearm safety, different actions on shotguns, proper shot size, proper fit and shot follow through. Trap is a good way for an upland game hunter to improve their shotgun skills.

Basic Pistol

October 25 · Sunday · 8–11:30 AM

Registration required (ages 18+)

This is a novice class for people who have little or no experience in handling and shooting a handgun. Topics that will be covered include basic firearm safety, types of handguns, different parts of the handgun, the variety of calibers, ammunition and marksmanship. Class includes range time.

Parma Woods Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

15900 NW River Road, PO Box 14024, Parkville, MO 64152 • mdc.mo.gov/node/283

It's a tough job, but everybody has to do it

This issue of the *KC Nature and You* is special. It marks my 10th anniversary writing articles and working at Parma Woods. A decade sounds like an eternity, but really it is just a fleeting glimpse of our experiences and memories.

Recently, while looking for an old photo I found myself consumed by the many cherished memories included in the albums. For me, many of those photos told stories of their own; stories of adventures into nature. They told of places I may never see again, people I may never see again and experiences I could never again experience.

Some of the most cherished of all these adventures included first-time outdoor experiences for friends and family. My chosen career has afforded me more opportunities to serve as a mentor than the average person, but the truth is anyone can

serve as a mentor. We all know someone with an interest in the outdoors that hasn't yet given it a try. Don't get me wrong; mentoring isn't easy. It takes patience. It takes sacrifice. It can, literally, take blood, sweat and tears. You will make some mistakes too, but the risk is definitely worth the reward. You don't believe me? Just give it a try.

The first step is to offer an invitation. I invite you to learn more about becoming a mentor at a new workshop on **Mentoring in the Outdoors** from 4:30-6:30 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 13 at Parma Woods. We'll include some lessons we've learned over the last decade to help you along the way to becoming an outdoor mentor.

— Nathan Woodland
Parma Woods Range Supervisor

Discover Nature – Basic Archery

September 24 · Thursday · 5:30–8 PM

Registration required (all ages)

Shooting archery is a popular way to spend leisure time for millions of people. It requires patience and discipline to excel. Attend this introductory level workshop to learn about the equipment, techniques and archery safety in a safe controlled environment.

Fall Turkey Hunting Workshop

September 27 · Sunday · 9 AM–4 PM

Registration required (ages 11+; ages 11–17 must be accompanied by an adult)

The month of October offers hunters a crack



at harvesting their own turkey for Thanksgiving dinner, but few turkey hunters take advantage of the opportunity. Turkey habits change throughout the year making fall turkey hunting

much different than spring turkey hunting. Attend this clinic to learn the differences and what it takes to get your turkey dinner.

Firearms Cleaning and Care

October 21 · Wednesday · 6–8 PM

Registration required (ages 11+; ages 11–17 must be accompanied by an adult)

Cleaning and maintaining your firearms is an important part of responsible gun ownership. It ensures that your firearms will function safely and reliably. Our certified firearms instructors will get you started down the right path for proper maintenance and care regardless of your motivations for firearm ownership.

Introduction to Trapping

October 22 · Thursday · 6–8 PM

Registration required (ages 8+; ages 8–17 must be accompanied by an adult)

Proper use of traps and trapping techniques is an important tool for wildlife management and nuisance wildlife control. Join us for a short two-hour introduction to modern trapping equipment, regulations and some basic trapping techniques.



Located in Platte County, Missouri. Go west of downtown Parkville on Route FF to River Road, then west 3 miles to the entrance located just west of I-435. Facilities are available for individual or group use and include a rifle/pistol/shotgun range, and archery range.

HOURS:

May 1–September 30

Monday and Tuesday: 2 PM–8 PM

Friday–Sunday: 10 AM–4 PM

October 1–April 30

Friday–Tuesday: Noon–4:30 PM

Closed Wednesday and Thursday and all state holidays.

FACILITIES AND FEES:

- Rifle/pistol/shotgun/range: \$3 booth per hour
- Archery range: \$3 per person per hour

TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-891-9941 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

Discover Nature – Family Squirrel Hunting Clinic

October 25 · Sunday · 1–7 PM

Registration required (all ages)

Hunting squirrels is a time honored tradition and rite of passage for many youths. It is also a great way to spend time as a family and provide meat for the table. Join our team of experienced hunters as we teach you everything you need to know to find success hunting squirrels. We'll talk about regulations, equipment, how to find squirrels and what to do if you take a few. This class does involve an actual hunting experience, so all participants must meet any legal requirements for hunting.

Anita B. Gorman **Discovery Center**

4750 Troost Avenue, Kansas City, MO 64110 • mdc.mo.gov/node/281



Located in Kansas City, Missouri, just east of the Plaza near 47th and Troost. Six hands-on workshops explore Missouri's fish, forest and wildlife with a Lewis and Clark theme. Discovery Center is a showcase for environmental architecture with four acres of native landscaping. Buy books and hunting/fishing permits at the gift shop.

HOURS:

Monday–Friday: 8 AM–5 PM
1st and 3rd Tuesdays: 8 AM–9 PM
1st and 3rd Saturdays: 9 AM–4 PM
Closed all state holidays.

TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-759-7300 to sign up for a program requiring registration.

Scout Program

September 1 • Tuesday • Evening

October 6 • Tuesday • Evening

Registration required (Scouts)

Lacking expertise or equipment to complete conservation badges? Education specialists will provide a program to help your Scouts with rank achievement. All Missouri Scout groups of 10-24 participants are welcome to schedule a free program. Contact Steve Jacobsen at (816) 759-7305 ext. 1146 or steve.jacobsen@mdc.mo.gov to schedule an evening program on the first Tuesday evening of the month.

Artist Meet and Greet Invisible Landscapes

September 1 • Tuesday • 6–7 PM

Walk-in (all ages)

The Discovery Center is pleased to have the artwork of Sarah Hearn on display during August and September. On Tuesday evening Sept. 1, Sarah will be available to meet and answer questions. We hope you take a moment to stop in and meet this amazing artist and appreciate her artwork.

Art + Lichen: A SymbiARTic Workshop

September 5 • Saturday • 11 AM–2 PM

Registration required (adults; ages 14+ are welcome to attend with adult participant)

Join artist Sarah Hearn for a workshop that explores nature and art. During the workshop, you will discuss the role of symbiosis in the environment, look closely at the different varieties of lichens that occur naturally, and work as a group to create our own artistic interpretation of a lichen colony.



Supplies for creating our colony will be provided. Please bring with you: curiosity, a sense of humor and willingness to participate in a group art project.

Extirpated or Extinct?

September 5 • Saturday • 10 AM–2:30 PM

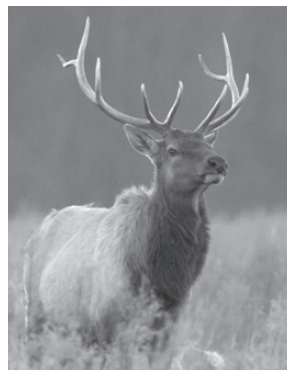
Walk-in (all ages) Once extirpated or gone from our state, three of the largest mammals to ever roam Missouri are back! Two on their own and one reintroduced. Learn about the natural history of black bears, mountain lions and elk with touch stations that include hides and skulls. Make an awesome recycled t-shirt with printed tracks of your favorite mighty mammal of Missouri.

The Elk Have Returned

September 5 • Saturday • 10 AM–2:30 PM

No registration required (all ages)

After a long absence and with a little help, elk have returned to Missouri. Stop and visit with MDC's elk program manager, David Hasenbeck, to find out how elk made their way back to Missouri, how big the population is and what made the Ozarks



a perfect place to reintroduce elk in Missouri. David can even give you tips to improve your chances of seeing an elk in Missouri.

Nature Nuts Storytime

September 5 • Saturday • 10–11 AM,
11 AM–Noon or 1–2 PM

September 19 • Saturday • 10–11 AM,
11 AM–Noon or 1–2 PM

Walk-in (ages 3–8; all welcome)

Join volunteer naturalists for a fantastic journey through forests, streams and other magical places as they read select books. Children will participate in a hands-on nature activity.

Field to Fork: Small Game and Catfish

September 15 • Tuesday • 6–8 PM

Registration required (adults)

Get close to your food as we learn to clean and cook small game and fish. There will be demonstrations and hands-on opportunities to clean fish and small game. Chefs Craig Adcock of Table Ocho and Brett Atkinson of Wilma's Real Good Food will teach you how to cook these wild meats to bring out their unique flavors and textures. There will be small plate samples for everyone to try. A \$20 per person refundable deposit is required to reserve your spot. Registration begins August 10.

Monarch Mania

September 19 • Saturday • 10 AM–2:30 PM

Walk-in (all ages)

The monarch is without a doubt one of the most remarkable insects we have the opportunity to enjoy in Missouri. Discover the majesty of this butterfly through various hands on activities that will leave you in a state of "Monarch Mania." This program will help you learn about migration, metamorphosis and conservation efforts for this amazing butterfly. Participants will even have the opportunity to tag and release a monarch and take home a milkweed seedling courtesy of Wings Over Weston.

Native Plant Sale

September 19 • Saturday • 10 AM–2:30 PM
(or until sold out)

Walk-in (all ages)

The Discovery Center is partnering with the Missouri Prairie Foundation to offer a native plant sale to benefit monarchs. Missouri Wildflower Nursery will be providing plants that are desired by monarchs (and other wildlife) and look great in your home landscape. New England aster, buttonbush,

MDC Discover Nature programs help Missourians discover and explore nature while providing expert instruction and hands-on activities.



purple coneflower and several species of milkweed, including marsh milkweed, will be for sale along with many other species. A percentage of proceeds from plant sales will benefit prairie conservation to provide habitat for monarchs and other pollinators. You may also preorder plants by calling 573-496-3492 or emailing mowldflrs@socket.net

Home School Day on the River

September 22 · Tuesday · 10 AM–1 PM

Registration required

(home school students ages 8+)

It's been a long, hot summer; let's spend a cool day on the river! Join us for a special day exploring the wonders of a local stream.

We will try our luck at bank fishing, dip netting for aquatic invertebrates and hiking the floodplain forest. We'll wrap it all up with lunch on the gravel bar; we'll provide hotdogs and s'mores. Bring your old shoes, bug spray/sunscreen and a water bottle... the rest will be provided.



Waterfowl and Wetlands

October 3 · Saturday · 10 AM–2:30 PM

Walk-in (all ages)

Quack! Quack! Honk! Honk! Join us for a day of learning about the upcoming waterfowl migrations and hunting seasons. Bring your duck and goose calls to get some calling practice and advice from experienced hunters. Learn how to set a spread of decoys to get those birds in close this fall. Watch trained dogs demonstrate their retrieving skills and learn how to train your dog to be a more effective retriever. You can also learn about some of the waterfowl hunting opportunities available in Missouri and how to manage a wetland to attract and benefit waterfowl.

Nature Nuts Storytime

October 3 · Saturday · 10–11 AM,

11 AM–Noon or 1–2 PM

Walk-in (ages 3–8; all welcome)

Join volunteer naturalists for a fantastic journey through forests, streams and other magical places as they read select books. Children will participate in a hands-on nature activity.

SPECIAL EVENT

HOWLoween!

October 16 · Friday · 6–9 PM

Walk-in (all ages)

HOWLoween is back and we want you to join the fun! Discovering nature's



creepy creatures is just part of the nighttime fun. Take a hike on the Wild Side Walk to get up close with some of Missouri's nocturnal wildlife. Kids will have a howling good time exploring nature stations like Track or

Treat, The Bone Yard, The Bat Cave and much more. It will be a howling fun, free and unforgettable event for the entire family.

Special Notice:

No Programming October 17

October 17 · Saturday

The Discovery Center will not have a program on Oct. 17. The Kansas City Marathon route will make getting to us a little challenging, but the building will be open 9 AM–4 PM as usual. Swing by, cheer on your favorite runner then come take a relaxing stroll through the gardens or check out the live animals on display. Gardens and trails will be open during daylight hours.

Field to Fork:

Wild Turkey and Panfish

October 20 · Tuesday · 6–8 PM

Registration required (adults)

Spend the evening learning how to cook and prepare panfish and wild turkey. There will be demonstrations and hands-on opportunities to clean panfish and wild turkey. Chefs Jasper Mirabile of Jasper's Restaurant and Duane Daugherty of Mr. Doggity's Barbecue will teach you how to cook these wild meats to bring out their unique flavors and textures. There will be small plate samples for everyone to try. A \$20 per person refundable deposit is required to hold your spot. Registration begins September 15.



Field to Fork: Adult Series

Getting close to your food is the best way to appreciate a very good meal. Join us for our four month, evening series of "Field to Fork" sessions, where you will get up close and personal as you learn how to clean and cook wild game and fish.

MDC staff will demonstrate how to clean fish, small game, large game and waterfowl. Participants will get a hands-on opportunity to prepare game for cooking. Once our game is cleaned, we will turn the best parts over to some of Kansas City's top chefs from area restaurants and food trucks. The chefs will show us their favorite ways to prepare these wild meats and share their recipes as well. Small plate samples will be available for everyone to taste as we celebrate the bounty of our wild harvests.

Due to the limited seating for these classes, there is a refundable deposit of \$20 per person, per class session to hold your spot. Your deposit will be returned when you attend your session.

September 15 – Small Game and Catfish

October 20 – Wild Turkey and Panfish

November 17 – Deer

December 15 – Waterfowl

JUNIOR DUCK STAMP EXHIBIT

Waterfowl art produced by talented youngsters who entered the Junior Duck Stamp competition will be on display at Burr Oak Woods in September and at the Discovery Center in October. The Junior Duck Stamp is sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service each year to recognize the talents

and environmental stewardship of young people throughout the United States. This competition was open to student's kindergarten through high school to create artwork depicting North American Waterfowl. First place winners from each state advance to the national competition. The winning artwork will be produced as the National Junior Duck Stamp for 2015.

DISCOVERY CENTER

Brush Creek Art Walk

*Sponsored by Missouri Valley
Impressionist Society*

Like to paint? Like to be outdoors? Consider signing up for the annual Kansas City Plein Air Festival Sept. 18–20. Discovery Center and area artists are offering a special art event.

Join some of the best artists in the region as they compete with brushes, paint and canvas along the newly renovated Brush Creek Trail. This almost continuous trail of lush, tree-lined walks, fountains and sculptures stretches more than four 4 miles along Brush Creek. The trail runs right past the Discovery Center.

Participating painters will have three days to complete paintings on-site along the creek. A quick paint session will be held on the Discovery Center grounds at Noon on Saturday, Sept. 19.

An awards reception will be held at 5 p.m. on Oct. 6. Starting then, select artworks will be displayed at the Discovery Center through Oct. 30.

Whether you are a painter, like to watch artists create or just like to admire artwork, the Discovery Center and the Brush Creek Art Walk partnership offers an opportunity to enjoy art. For more information visit: www.brushcreekartwalk.org

On Target

...continued from front page
off Smart Road. For a map, visit http://extra.mdc.mo.gov/documents/area_brochures/5501map.pdf

Lake City also has a target archery range. That range is east of the firearms range, just off the parking lot for headquarters. The range has 12 positions from 10 to 60 yards. A \$3 per hour fee is required since it is a staffed range.

MDC also offers the Missouri National Archery in Schools Program, also known as MoNASP. This target archery program for schools provides a safe and simple way for youths to learn and enjoy archery. The gear is basic and standard for all participants. The target range protocols can be used for indoor or outdoor shooting. MoNASP includes competitive matches and tournaments. But the bottom line is target archery is fun and enjoyed by a wide variety of youths. For more information, visit <http://mdc.mo.gov/node/3813>.

Anyone interested in the program can also call Outdoor Skills Specialist, Chris Capps at 816-622-0900.

— Bill Graham, Media Specialist

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Discovery Center, Parma Woods and
Lake City Shooting Ranges

will be closed for these state holidays:
Labor Day, Monday, September 7
Columbus Day, October 12

Trapping helps manage furbearer populations managing pest and predators

With the onset of cool weather, and trees turning to their autumn colors, trapping season is just around the corner. Trapping has always played an important role throughout Missouri's history. Never has this been more true than today. With many of the furbearers numbers in Missouri being higher than in years past, especially coyotes and foxes, trappers have a great opportunity for a productive upcoming 2015–2016 trapping season.

In the 2013–2014 trapping season the number of Missouri trapping permits issued by MDC was 10,681 resident permits and 323 non-resident permits.



In the 2012–2013 trapping season only a total of 9,192 permits were sold according to the MDC database. One reason for the increase in permit sales is the increased population in coyotes and foxes throughout the

state. In the 2013–2014 trapping season, coyote harvest was 7,631 which was up 8.63 percent over the previous year. In the same year, fox harvest was 1,772 which was up 24.48 percent over the previous year.

Trappers in Missouri have the opportunity to expand their methods in which to pursue the wise coyote and foxes. In 2004, the Conservation Commission approved cable restraint as a legal method in which to harvest both species. The cable restraint method is used during the normal Missouri trapping season. Trappers must attend a class prior to using the cables for regulations as they relate to cable restraint. For more information on a cable restraint class in your area go to <http://mdc.mo.gov/node/4154>.

— Steve Elliott, Lake City Range Supervisor